

Testimony in support of SB308

Environment – Statewide Green Business Certification Program

To: Hon. Paul Pinsky, Chair, Hon. Cheryl Kagan, Vice-chair and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Jerry Kickenson

Date: February 2, 2022

I am writing in **support of Senate Bill 0308**, Environment – Statewide Green Business Certification Program.

I am a long time resident of Maryland. Both my wife and I prefer to support businesses that we are confident are not doing environmental harm and, better yet, are contributing to solutions. Many of our purchases are made online with businesses throughout the country.

We would like to make more purchases locally, supporting Maryland businesses, especially small businesses. SB 0308 would make it much easier for us to choose Maryland businesses for our shopping. It is very difficult for us to determine how businesses behave without some third party evaluation. We often rely on private, non-profits to do so. Having a government sanctioned certification, and one focused on Maryland businesses, would help tremendously.

I strongly urge you to reach a favorable decision on SB 0308. It will help both consumers and, importantly, Maryland businesses.

Respectfully,

Jerry Kickenson

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